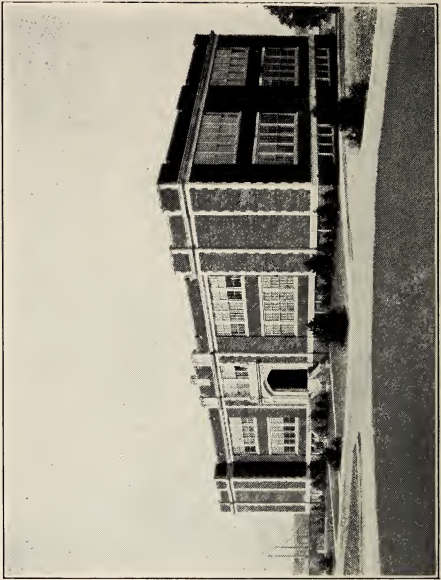




MAIN BUILDING OXFORD ORPHANAGE

History of
Masonic Picnic
lle, N. C.



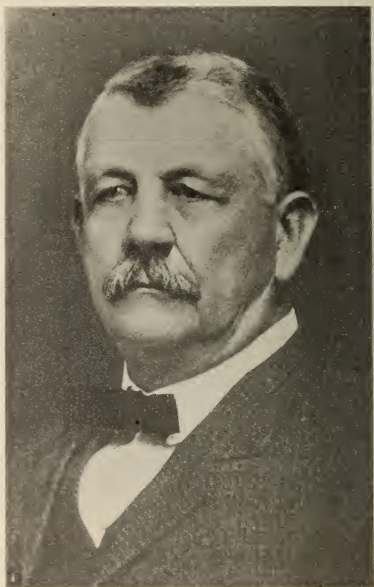
JOHN NICHOLS SCHOOL BUILDING, OXFORD ORPHANAGE

This school is a far cry from old St. John's College, which, before being sold for debt, had been aided by Lodge, No. 134, in its early days, for the records of Aug. 13, 1851, state that Baxter Clegg, Chaplain, made the motion that the Lodge subscribe \$250.00 to be paid to the Grand Lodge to help in the erection of a Masonic College at Oxford, the Lodge unanimously agreeing to this.

THE HISTORY
of
MOCKSVILLE MASONIC
PICNIC



1878 --- 1928



HON. T. B. BAILEY
For Many Years "The Life of Our
Picnic."

THE HISTORY of MOCKSVILLE MASONIC PICNIC

[BY MARY J. HEITMAN]

The old proverb, "*Great oaks from little acorns grow*," is clearly proven in the growth of the Masonic Picnic at Mocksville, which under the majestic oaks of Clement Grove has developed from a small community gathering to one of the biggest events of the year in Piedmont Carolina.

Mocksville Masonic Lodge, No. 134, had been established in Mocksville more than 25 years before the picnics were started, being founded in April 1850, by a loyal, enthusiastic body of men.

In the 70's there were not as many places of amusement as in modern times, and when the pleasant summer days came the three Sunday-schools of the town would join forces, and spend a day picnicing at the "Shoals," where the town of Cooleemee is now located. On one of these occasions it was suggested by the late John H. Stewart that the money left over from purchasing refreshments be sent to the Oxford Orphanage. A few years prior to this the old St. John's College at Oxford, which was built to educate Masons' daughters, was in debt and had to be sold. In 1872 the Grand Lodge met in Raleigh, and J. H. Mills made a motion that it be turned into an orphanage. In deciding the question the vote of John Nichols, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, turned the tide in favor of establishing an orphanage. It then became the custom for the superintendent to tour the State with a chapter of orphans, and give concerts, one of these being given at the Presbyterian Church in

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

Mocksville. In 1874 it is recorded that the Mocksville Lodge sent \$25.00 to Oxford. In the minutes of the Mocksville Lodge, No. 134, dated April 20, 1877, E. Frost being Worshipful Master, the following is recorded: "Brothers H. B. Howard, W. A. Clement, and Thos. B. Bailey were appointed a committee to receive and prepare homes for Bro. J. H. Mills and the orphans who were to give an entertainment in Mocksville on the 11th day of May next. On motion the Lodge appointed Bros. Rev. Thos. A. Boone, Thos. B. Bailey and W. A. Clement a committee to confer with the other Lodges of this county in regard to a grand Masonic Picnic on the 24th day of June next, and report their action at our next monthly meeting." P. M. Bailey, Sec.

There were three other Masonic Lodges in Davie County at that time: Farmington Lodge, No. 265, Jerusalem Lodge, No. 315, and County Line Lodge, No. 224.

The record also states that the Committee on the Orphan Asylum was directed to request the ministers of the three churches to take up a collection for the Oxford Orphanage on the 24th of June, a date specially celebrated in Masonic circles. Again, under date of November 16, 1877, we find another plea to the ministers to speak to their congregations in behalf of the Orphanage, and to take up a collection for it. A. A. Harbin made the motion that it be suggested to the officers of the various churches that they erect boxes in the churches "to receive contributions for the aid of the Asylum." Phillip Hanes made a motion that the Orphan Asylum Committee "procure a book, and solicit subscriptions from each member (of the Lodge) to be paid monthly for the orphan cause."

So we see that these Masonic brothers had the cause of the fatherless ones close at heart, and the acorn had already sprouted, and was showing leaves of promise.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic



CAPT. WILEY A. CLEMENT
Member First Committee Appointed, 1877
(Photo About 1872)

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

It is said that the hat collection taken at the Picnic at the Shoals in August 1878 amounted to \$35.00. Keep that in mind when you read of the checks in four figures which have been sent to the Oxford Orphanage in recent years.

The minutes for June 20, 1879, have this article recorded, "On motion it was carried that we have a picnic on or about the middle of July for the benefit of the Orphans at Oxford, and the following committee of arrangements was appointed to arrange the Picnic at the Shoals or some other place, (viz.) John H. Stewart, J. M. Howard, A. A. Harbin, P. Hanes and W. A. Clement." J. M. Howard, Sec.

It is interesting to scan the list of officers for the year 1879: T. B. Bailey, W. M.; Wiley A. Clement, S. W.; Phillip Hanes, J. W.; Braxton Bailey, Treas.; J. M. Howard, Sec.; W. F. Kelly, S. D.; P. R. Martin, J. D.; A. A. Harbin, Tiler; J. H. Stewart and P. M. Bailey, Stewards; A. C. Kelly, Marshal; Rev. W. C. Willson, Chaplain; H. B. Howard, W. A. Clement and J. L. Adams, Com. of Finance; Jacob Cope, A. Henly and Cheshire Sain, Com. of Reference; J. L. Adams, W. A. Clement and H. B. Howard, Building Com.; Phillip Hanes, J. H. Stewart and E. H. Pass, Orphan Asylum Committee.

At the Lodge meeting held on July 18, 1879, the committee reported that they had invited a speaker for the Picnic to be held at the Shoals. John H. Stewart was appointed to buy 25 or 30 aprons for the members to wear at the Picnic J. A. Kelly and E. H. Pass were appointed to take up the collection at the Picnic, which amounted to \$81.79, the date being July 23, 1879.

On April 16, 1880, it is recorded that the Worshipful Master appointed "A. Henly, W. A. Clement and P. Hanes as a committee with the Orphan Asylum Committee to take such action in regard to the Picnic as they may deem proper." One of the most

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

enthusiastic workers for the Picnic from the beginning was Major William B. Clement, who, although not a Mason, gave it his loyal support until his death. For several years the Picnics were held at the Shoals, and then it was decided to move it to Mocksville in 1883, and hold it in a grove belonging to the heirs of John Clement, one of the erectors of Davie County. And so, the small oak sapling was transplanted from the riverside to the grove, where it was watered with the tears of sympathy and warmed with the sunshine of unselfish love.

The officers for 1881 were: H. B. Howard, W. M.; Phillip Hanes, S. W.; S. A. Woodruff, J. W.; W. A. Clement, Treas.; A. Henly, Sec.; A. A. Harbin, S. D.; Casper Sain, J. D.; P. M. Bailey, Tiler. In this year a committee of three, composed of A. A. Harbin, Casper Sain and J. H. Stewart was appointed to select speakers for the Picnic in July. .

In 1882 it was motioned that a committee with the regular Orphan Committee discuss plans with a committee from Farmington Lodge for the annual Orphan Picnic. The committee thus appointed was: J. M. Howard, Casper Sain, S. A. Woodruff and T. B. Bailey. The Orphan Asylum Committee was W. A. Clement, E. H. Pass and J. H. Stewart.

The minutes of the Lodge on March 21, 1884, contain the following item: "On motion of Brother H. B. Howard the Lodge voted to have a Picnic this year about the usual time, the day to be set by the committee of arrangements. The W. M. proceeded to appoint the following brethren as a Committee of Arrangements: J. A. Kelly, Chairman, Rev. W. C. Willson, J. M. Howard, S. A. Woodruff, W. A. Clement, J. H. Stewart, and Phillip Hanes."

A treasured memento of those days is a very ornate invitation to the Picnic of 1885. Printed on the folder are these words: "Invitation to the Seventh Annual Masonic

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic



Group of Members of Mocksville Lodge Hall in 1905. They are, reading from left to right: B. O. MORRIS, Z. N. ANDERSON, J. L. SHEPHERD, POINDEXTER (deceased), W. T. STARBUCK, J. GRANGER, W. T. WOODRUFF (deceased), D. C. (member of the first committee at Mocksville Masonic Picnic in 1878), D. C. (has attended every Picnic except one), W. C. (deceased), J. B. CAMPBELL, M. WATERS (deceased), J. D. FROST (deceased), D. L. (deceased), J. H. COLEY (deceased).

A leading member of Farmington Lodge (not in the photograph), who held the office of Grand Lodge, and toured the State for many years.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic



Mocksville Lodge, No. 134, taken in front of their
 building from right to left—V. E. SWAIM,
 J. L. HEEK, E. H. PASS (deceased), F. T.
 STARR, J. A. CURRENT, (deceased), C. L.
 , D. W. GRANGER, T. B. BAILEY (de-
 ceased) appointed in 1877 to start the
 committee, D. C. AUSTIN, S. A. WOODRUFF (who
 died in 1878), W. C. DENNY, JERRY WELLMAN (de-
 ceased), D. L. WILLIAMS, W. A. OWENS, W. M.,
 D. L. DYSON, F. M. JOHNSON (de-
 ceased).

Mocksville Lodge, No. 265, was C. F. Bahnson
 who held the office of Grand Lecturer of the
 lodge for many years, delivering lectures.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

Picnic, "Clement Grove", Mocksville, N. C. Thursday, August 13th, 1885. Addresses by Capt. Oct. Coke and Dr. B. F. Dixon. Exercises by a Chapter of Orphans. W. A. Clement, W. T. Woodruff, W. K. Gibbs, C. F. Bahnson, T. M. Monroe, Thos. Butler, Com."

The amount raised for the orphans at this Picnic was \$263.00. Thus the young oak, growing strong and sturdy in its new environment, began to show many new green leaves.

The interest in the annual Masonic Picnic, which now was held on the second Thursday in August, steadily increased, although sometimes rainy weather prevented the proceeds from coming up to expectations. The only building on the grounds then was a small wooden platform where the speakers and orphans were seated, the crowds sitting on benches without backs and no roof except the drooping branches of the oak trees. There was also a booth where ice-cream and lemonade were sold. Too much praise cannot be given to those noble women of Davie for the excellent dinners that loaded the long tables spread under the trees.

On September 21, 1889, it was recorded: "The Picnic Committee reported that the net proceeds of the Picnic was \$233.00, and that the same had been turned over to Dr. Dixon, superintendent of Oxford Orphan Asylum."

On May 16, 1890, we read, "On motion the W. Master was instructed to appoint a Picnic Committee, and report the same through the Davie Times." The amount raised at this Picnic was \$178.32.

The next year, 1891, was a more successful one, for the good sum of \$549.53 was sent to Dr. William Black, then superintendent of the Orphanage. Among the items of expense listed at this Picnic we find recorded, "15c for a lost plate."

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

The speakers on these occasions were usually the superintendent of the Orphanage and some other high official in Masonic circles.

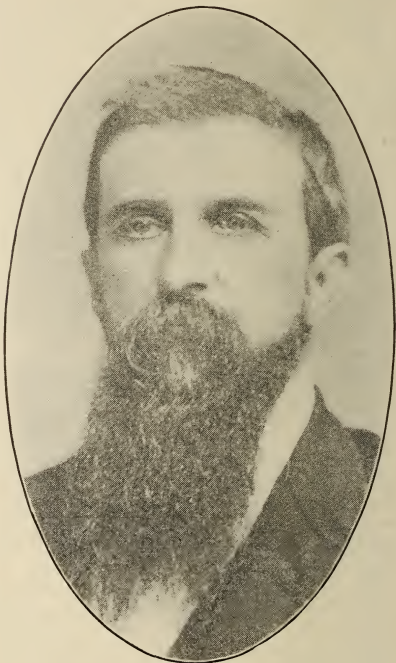
In 1892 the officers were: S. A. Woodruff, W. M.; Jacob Stewart, S. W.; Will X. Coley, J. W.; H. B. Howard, Treas.; A. Henly, Sec.; and on the Orphans Committee: H. E. Robertson, Phillip Hanes, and A. M. Nail. It was this year that the first excursion train was run from Winston to the Picnic. The minutes of May 20, 1892, read as follows: "On motion the Master appointed a Committee to confer with Col. Andrews in regard to chartering a train for the purpose of running an excursion at our Picnic, and the following brothers were appointed: T. B. Bailey, A. M. McGlamery, and Will X. Coley." The results of this Picnic were very encouraging, and \$622.95 was sent to Dr. Black.

Early in the Spring the Lodge would begin making plans for the Picnic, and on April 20, 1894, it is recorded that the Master appointed Will X. Coley, W. T. Woodruff and A. M. Nail to see the owners of the Picnic Grounds, and ask their permission to use them, the committee later reporting that the owners, "cheerfully consented to let the Lodge have the grounds as usual."

The Davie Times of August 10, 1894, reports that the Masonic Picnic was a great success that year. Supt. Lawrence and a class of orphans were present, an excursion, "loaded down with humanity," was run from Winston, and the speakers were Major Duncan of South Carolina, and C. F. McKesson of Morganton.

The officers for the year 1895 were: F. M. Johnson, W. M.; W. T. Woodruff, S. W.; V. E. Swaim, J. W.; T. B. Bailey, Treas.; A. Henly, Sec.; Will X. Coley, S. D.; H. C. Meroney, J. D.; A. M. Nail and W. C. Denny, Stewards; and P. M. Bailey, Tiler.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic



REV. T. A. BOONE

Member Appointed in 1877 to Make Arrangements
for First Masonic Picnic at the "Shoals" Mill, June
24, 1878.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

Under the date of May 17, 1895, it is recorded that "The Committee on the Picnic Grounds reported that Mr. Herbert Clement agreed to let the Lodge have the use of the Picnic Grounds free of charge. On motion the Lodge voted to have our annual Masonic Picnic on the second Thursday in August. The amount raised this year was \$510.37. Recognizing the Picnic as a yearly affair, the Lodge decided to purchase the grounds, which were so ideally located for this purpose, so in January 1897 they bought five acres, more or less, from Herbert Clement, one of the heirs of John Clement.

By 1898 it became necessary to have a much larger Committee of Arrangements, and whereas in former years there had been from three to six men to arrange for the Picnic, we find here a list of eighteen, as follows: Committee of Arrangements, T. B. Bailey, J. Stewart, J. A. Kelly, R. C. Brown, and J. W. Jones; Gates and Grounds, W. T. Woodruff, W. A. Owen, W. C. Denny and B. L. Hopkins; Refreshments, W. A. Clement, S. A. Jarvis, and V. E. Swaim; Tables, S. A. Woodruff, C. F. Bahnson, and J. A. Current; Homes, P. M. Bailey, H. E. Robertson, and W. L. Sanford.

The officers for the year 1899 were: V. E. Swaim, W. M.; W. A. Owen, S. W.; W. T. Woodruff, J. W.; J. B. Johnstone, Sec.; T. B. Bailey, Treas.; W. C. Denny, S. D.; B. O. Morris, J. D.; H. C.; Meroney, Tiler.

An important step was taken in March 1899 when the motion was made and carried to build an arbor on the Picnic Grounds. On May 19, 1899, the minutes state that "T. B. Bailey, chairman of the arbor committee, reported that contract had been let for material to build an arbor on the Picnic Grounds." A spacious arbor was erected, with a high raised platform for the speakers, orphans, and band, and it is still in use.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

In 1902 the statement is made that \$335.-65 was sent to W. J. Hicks, Supt. of Oxford Orphanage. The officers for 1903 were: W. A. Owen, W. M., J. A. Current, S. W.; H. C. Meroney, J. W.; B. O. Morris, Sec.; T. B. Bailey, Treas.; D. L. Dyson, S. D.; Marvin Waters, J. D.; V. E. Swaim, Tiler. The proceeds from the Picnic of 1903, sent to W. J. Hicks, amounted to \$548.17.

In 1906 the officers were as follows: J. B. Johnstone, W. M.; Marvin Waters, S. W.; R. B. Sanford, J. W.; B. O. Morris, Sec.; T. B. Bailey, Treas.; W. A. Owen, S. D.; D. W. Granger, J. D. The amount sent to the Orphanage in 1907 was \$935.96, and in 1910, which was the 32nd Picnic, the gratifying sum of \$1,511.03 was given to the orphans.

The crowds were now increasing from year to year, and fame of the Picnic was spreading far beyond the borders of the State. It was now becoming an annual "Home Coming Day" for former citizens of Mocksville and Davie County who were living elsewhere. One of the most important committees has always been the Basket Committee, and on this J. F. Hanes, S. A. Woodruff, J. L. Sheek and others have worked faithfully for many years, the chairman of this committee now being John Larew. A great improvement has been made in the last few years in the erection of a pavilion over the dinner tables where the delicious viands can be set forth with no fear of rain. The good women of this town and county have supported the Picnic from the beginning in a most loyal manner, and the fame of their culinary skill is far-reaching, for what would a Picnic be without the Picnic Dinner!

On April 25, 1925, the Order of the Eastern Star organized an enthusiastic chapter here, Mrs. Z. N. Anderson being the first Worthy Matron, and her successor now being Mrs. Lester Martin.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic



Past Grand Master Leon Cash, born and reared in Davie County, and the Tots of Baby Cottage at the Oxford Orphanage Seem to Be on Excellent Terms.

The Mocksville Masonic Picnic

Among those caring for the orphans at the Picnic we would mention Dr. and Mrs. R. P. Anderson, who always open their home to the chapter during their stay here.

For a number of years T. B. Bailey was chairman of the Picnic Committee, being succeeded by O. L. Williams, now of Sumter, S. C. The present chairman is J. B. Johnstone.

Masons holding the office of Worshipful Master in recent years are: S. F. Binkley in 1913; W. I. Leach in 1916; C. R. Nicholson in 1917; Marvin Waters in 1920.

In 1925 the amount raised for the Orphans was \$2000.00 and in 1926 the maximum was reached in the amount of \$2300.00. Let us hope that this good year 1928 will be the banner year of all the fifty.

Officers for 1927 were: R. L. Fry, W. M.; S. R. Latham, S. W.; C. H. Tomlinson, J. W.; Dr. L. P. Martin, S. D.; S. C. Stonestreet, J. D.; R. B. Sanford, Treas.; Z. N. Anderson, Sec.; D. W. Granger, Tiler. Orphans Committee: V. E. Swaim, E. C. Morris, Roy Holthouser.

The recently elected officers for 1928 are: S. R. Latham, W. M.; C. H. Tomlinson, S. W.; Dr. L. P. Martin, J. W.; R. B. Sanford, Treas.; H. C. Meroney, Sec.; R. L. Fry, S. D.; Marvin Waters, J. D.; D. W. Granger, Tiler; S. M. Call, Sr. Steward; Roy Holthouser, Jr. Steward.

May we hope that this fiftieth anniversary will be a golden milestone, and that the stalwart oak may grow into a mighty monarch of the forest, whose branches will form a shelter for the fatherless ones for many years to come, and this will be the greatest monument the Masons of Davie County could have.



WILLIAM J. HICKS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, OXFORD ORPHANAGE





MAIN BUILDING OXFORD ORPHANAGE

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